

*D. Haweuse
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: LITTLE *et al.*

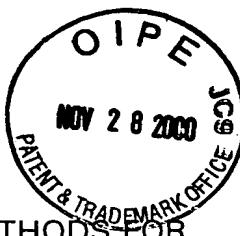
Serial No.: 08/786,988

Filed: January 23, 1997

For: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR
PREPARING AND ANALYZING LOW
VOLUME ANALYTE ARRAY ELEMENTS

Art Unit: 1743

Examiner: Le, L.



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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated above and addressed to: BOX CPA, Commissioner of Patents, Box CPA, Washington, D.C. 20231

Carnetha Gonzalez
Carnetha Gonzalez

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Response is responsive to the Final Office Action, mailed December 7, 1999, and the Advisory Action, mailed June 13, 2000, and is filed with a Request for Continued Prosecution Application (CPA). Consideration and entry of the following amendments are respectfully requested:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 95-99 without prejudice or disclaimer.

REMARKS

A check for the requisite fees for filing a CPA and for a 5 month extension of time accompanies this response. Any fee that may be due in connection with this application may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1213. If a Petition for extension of time is needed, this paper is to be considered such Petition.

An DECLARATION pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.132, with an attached exhibit (Little *et al.* (1997) "MALDI on a Chip: Analysis of Arrays of Low-Femtomole to Subfemtomole Quantities of Synthetic Oligonucleotides and DNA Diagnostic Products Dispensed by a Piezoelectric Pipet", *Anal chem* 69:4540-4546, is of record in this application.

Claims 1-6, 9-34, 40-51 and 54-94 are pending in this application.

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JUN 13 2000